



Minutes of the Annual Assembly of Hadlow Down Parish Council

Held in the Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7.00pm on Tuesday April 17th 2018

Present: Cllrs Sandra Richards (Chair), Damon Wellman, Iain Turner, Jas Singh, Julian Michaelson-Yeates and Michael Lunn.

In attendance: Cllr Bob Standley (ESCC) Helen Johnson (Clerk) and members of the public.

The meeting started at 7pm

Sandra Richards welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that some people had raised questions about speeding and traffic calming and that this would be discussed at a separate meeting with the relevant people from ESCC Highways.

- 1. Presentation:** A presentation was given by Dale Poore, ESCC Highways Contract Manager and Mike Egleton, Costain Services Director. They have visited the area with Cllr Wellman and are working with the Parish Council to improve the service they give. They confirmed that drainage work would be undertaken for 5 days at the junction with Tinkers Lane starting 30th April. Their presentation was followed by a Questions and Answers session.
- 2. Apologies for absence:** Apologies had been received from Cllr Toby Illingworth, Graham, Jean and Jill Terry, Steve Godfrey, Anne and Chris Yarrow.
- 3. The minutes of the 2017 Annual Assembly:** the minutes were approved and signed as a true record.
- 4. WDC Report:** Cllr. Michael Lunn (WDC)

Headlines for the last 12 months

Council Tax increase by 2.7% (£5 increase for Band D property) the lowest price compared to other agencies.

Establishment of housing company to develop specific housing types which are lacking in the District.

Establishment of Wealden Crematorium at Horam.

Ashdown Forest – Nitrogen.

Parking issues – decriminalisation.

Waste and recycling contract changing.

Local Plan

Severe delays due to ongoing changes with the National Planning Policy Framework where Government are pursuing a much more aggressive housing policy.

Wealden District Council has responded to each change but having regard to the constraints of the District. This includes: Ashdown Forest; Pevensey Marshes; A27; and High Weald AONB and South Downs National Park.

Class Q applications.

5 year housing supply – future scenarios could be 950 to 1250 houses per year.

The reality is that depending on evidence base and Government interpretation will influence the final Local Plan that will go out to public consultation.

Hoping to publish in late June.

New updated local planning policy e.g. protection of business employment.

Other issues – Policing in Wealden

The precept decision was a shock to us all but covers a range of policy changes including to retain 480 police staff that under the Policing 2020 plan were to lose their jobs or be redeployed within Sussex Police.

In addition there is an intention to recruit 200 new police officers.

But crime levels in Wealden are rising especially in rural communities. There has been a 23% increase in reported crime in the District for the rolling year between March 2017 and February 2018 (6454 crimes) when compared with the same period in 2016/17 (5243 crimes).

With regard to Road Safety, the figures for up to and including November 2017 have been released. For the first 11 months of 2017 there were 18 people killed and 117 people seriously injured on Wealden's roads compared with 9 and 8 fatalities and 121 and 106 seriously injured for the first 11 months of 2016 and 2015 respectively. Sadly 6 people were killed on Wealden's roads in September 2017 alone.

We are arguing that Wealden District get its fair share of resources and this is something I have raised personally with the Portfolio holder and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Members of the public asked about rail infrastructure, funding of housing, land banking and Class Q developments.

- 5. ESCC Report:** Cllr. Bob Standley (ESCC) - Cllr Standley advised that if members of the public have Highways issues that they should report them to ESCC however if they didn't get anywhere he could follow up the issue for them. He thanked Cllr. Wellman for all his work on Highways issues.

Why has my Council Tax gone up

64% of expenditure is on Adult Social Care and Children Services

Increasing pressure on those budgets which are demand led

Further £30m savings to be found in the next 2 years which will mean difficult decisions.

ESCC Council Tax increased by 5.99% including 3% Adult Social Care additional levy, this is not due to be available in the following year.

It's not just about potholes

Despite financial challenges we are still delivering a range of services:

- East Sussex Better Together/Connecting4Y – working with NHS;
- Orbis Partnership combining back office services with Brighton and Surrey;
- Broadband – working with BT to connect the difficult to reach areas;
- Encouraging Business Growth to increase prosperity;
- Stand up for East Sussex – lobbying Government for a better deal for Shire Counties
- Lobbying for fairer funding for East Sussex Schools

6. Reports from Representatives:

- a. Mayfield Charities: - Penny Eliot confirmed that the work of the Mayfield Trust now covers the whole of Hadlow Down. Over the last 12 months they have helped 3 people in the village however they could help more.

8. Reports from Councillors:

e. Cllr. Jas Singh – Community Plan

Community Plan 2018 -2026.

What is the Community Plan – Based on the needs of local people and stakeholders for projects and programmes that improve quality of life in the Hadlow Down Parish and identifies the community priorities for the future of the Parish up to 2026 in line with Wealden District Councils Local Development Framework.

Results of consultations and the key priorities were given. Cllr. Singh gave details of a possible parish walk and of a possible new bridle path. Talks will need to be held with ESCC and it will need to be seen whether there is a safe line of sight for horseriders crossing the A272. Members of the public commented on the proposal. A copy of the Community Plan is available from the Clerk giving a full breakdown of the key priorities.

6. Reports from Representatives:

- b. St Mark's School: Claire Rivers presented the following report:

This year we felt we would do a double act. It is always a privilege to work with someone in leadership as Headship can be a lonely job and it is a joy to share the school's successes and the more challenging issues.

Our new astro-turf field has been an amazing success enabling us to use the field in all weathers. We are keen to ensure our children get plenty of sport and exercise, and with this extended area we have overcome that problem. We also have some very exciting German climbing equipment which caters for all age ranges across the school.

Safeguarding remains a high priority issue and we work very hard to protect the children in our care, providing a comprehensive e-safety curriculum to keep the children safe online, as they are now accessing technology from such an early age. Social Media is providing society in general with a multitude of problems and we do try to emphasise to parents the need to be watchful when children are accessing chat rooms etc. online. We continue to provide our service called 'Talkspace' for children, and their parents, that may have emotional and social problems. A Health and Well-being grant has been helpful in supporting children to stay mentally fit and well through healthy eating, exercise and support. Finance is still a key issue for schools at the moment and despite the constant message that education is receiving more money than ever before, St Mark's, a school which has always brought in additional funds wherever possible, will soon have to think about radical ways to cut costs in the future. We are fortunate, that by being creative, and using our Teaching School training capacity, we have been able to recruit 3 new members of staff, but recruitment and retention is also becoming a challenge as young teachers are not staying in the profession or wanting to work in East Sussex, due to the high costs of rented accommodation.

GDPR

We continue as a DfE Teaching School which gives us special status and responsibilities for: initial teacher training; leadership programmes; research; professional development; and school to school support. I am Teaching School Director and this work has grown considerably as we now bid for some substantial grants that pay for school to school support, as the LA shrinks its capacity to work with schools. We do work harmoniously with the LA on many areas to supplement their resources e.g. governor training. I continue to be a member of the Governance Board of the Institute of Education and University College, London, and have helped them to write the new programmes for school leadership programmes across the UK and beyond. Coaching is a strength of our teaching school and we offer this to all teachers via a Women in Leadership initiative; the new Chartered College of Teaching; and for leadership qualifications.

A recent article highlighted that 'schools are becoming selfish' and this is largely due to the nature of the accountability system that is in place and the overuse of testing. We strongly believe that children should receive a holistic education, not merely be practising tests for the whole year in order to top the league tables, although we know they will need to be familiarised with the test format. We have received commendations from the secondary schools regarding our maths provision which provides deep and meaningful learning, and encourages a love of maths, obviously evident when the children leave St Mark's. We have put the maths mastery approach in at Year 1 and it will only be when those children, in two years, reach Year 6 we will reap the full rewards in tests- it has been necessary to be brave and stick to our guns on this implementation. Sadly, some schools are becoming less inclusive due to the tests discouraging the parents of SEN children from sending them to a school. Standards must be maintained, we agree, and teachers should be trusted as professionals, which may increase recruitment too.

St Mark's is a great place to be and we know this because there is little absenteeism from both children and staff. When visitors come to the school they comment on its calm environment and the positive way in which all stakeholders treat

one another. We love being a part of this special village community, which supports and includes the school so well. We are proud of our Christian values, good values whatever your belief, and we always aim to give all children their 'Wings to Fly'.

7. **Financial report** – The Clerk presented the report that appears at the end of these minutes. She also gave details of the last five years' precepts and the reasons for the increase for 2018/19. No questions were asked.

8. **Reports from Councillors:**

(a) Emergency Plan, Police and Neighbourhood Watch – Cllr. Iain Turner

Police and Neighbourhood Watch

There is not a great deal to report in this area that people will not already be aware of from the Neighbourhood Watch bulletins (if you're not registered then I advise you do so as it will keep you up to date with current trends). Crime is still low in the area but residents should still remain vigilant and conscious of security. Garden and agricultural machinery continue to be favourites for thieves so make sure sheds and outbuildings are secure.

We have a new local Inspector for our area who I am hoping to meet with in the near future so if there are any particular concerns residents have they can let me know and I will endeavour to get some feedback.

Emergency Plan

As I'm sure you are all aware, the Emergency Plan questionnaire has been circulated again but sadly the returns are still only trickling in. It was highlighted during the recent water outage that the thing we lacked the most was contact information and the location of vulnerable residents. We also need contact details and potential skills in order to best support the village whenever necessary and this includes everyone. Just having the ability to contact you for conditions in your location or to ask you to go and check on a neighbour could be invaluable. With this in mind, please complete your questionnaire and return it to us even if you were one of the good ones who bothered last time. The better the support, the better the plan will work. There are some more survey forms available tonight or alternatively they are available on the village website where you can download, complete and return them to the Clerk via email.

(b) Wealden District Association of Local Councils, Planning, Playing Field and Tree Warden – Cllr. Julian

Michaelson-Yeates

WDALC

WDALC is the Wealden Association of Local Councils. The meetings are held quarterly and are a very useful communication channel. In effect WDALC is a liaison group between the Parish Councils, Wealden Council and the various services such as Fire, Police and Ambulance about key issues of the moment.

Parking enforcement in the district continues to be an area of discussion without much progress unfortunately. Residents may have noticed that the Police aren't actively enforcing parking and haven't been doing so for several years due to budget constraints. In the interim period, Wealden are reluctant to pick up the baton. There are reasons for this, in part to do with the cost of civil enforcement. In the meantime, residents living near railway stations continue to be inconvenienced with commuter parking.

Policing in the district continues to be a matter of concern. A large cut in the central grant for the Police has resulted in changes to resourcing which has been much publicised in the local press over the last 2 years. As a community of Parishes, we are told that visible presence policing in the form of a Dixon of Dock Green is less relevant as crime increasingly moves online. We are informed that policing isn't being withdrawn but just carried out differently. For the public, visible policing is more than just reassuring, experience tells us that the levels of petty crime and theft haven't diminished or gone away. Crowborough are now funding their own PCSO to counter vandalism and anti-social behavior.

Playing Field Committee

As a village we are incredibly fortunate to have a wonderful Committee and team of volunteers running the playing field for the benefit of all parishioners. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee: Nigel Harrison who has taken over as the new Chair, John Thompson, Peter Smythe and Graham Terry for all their work and dedication over the last year. I would like to extend a special thank you to Fiona Shafer who recently stepped down as Chair, her leadership, tact and humour will be missed. Fiona leaves the Playing Field in very good hands.

We are also indebted to Bob Lake and his energy in connection with the roller project, the football pitch drainage as well as the preparation work for the cricket square.

There is always a long list of improvement and maintenance projects and this wouldn't be possible without a committed team of volunteers.

Do go and look at the website www.hdpf.uk and you will see all the excellent work that is going on; the 28 cricket fixtures planned for the summer as well as keeping up to date on the social events including the Pavilion dining which are proving very popular.

One of the established highlights of the year is the bonfire night, now a key village social event as well as being an important source of funds for the Playing Field. It's a very professionally run event that requires an extraordinary degree of organisation by the committee and the many bonfire volunteers. We are indebted to the pyrotechnic and bonfire experience of Guy Osborne and Ben Floyd who volunteer their services without which this very enjoyable evening would not be possible.

One area of change of responsibility has been the Play area. The play area and equipment was built by the HDPFC under the Chair of Peter Gillies and has proved to be very popular and well used. However, over this time the Health & Safety regulations for obtaining insurance has become more onerous. The play area requires a documented H&S check every week and the level of responsibility and accountability for running a play area is now beyond what can be reasonably

expected of a team of volunteers. For this reason, the HDPFC have handed over the management of the play area to the Parish Council. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lucy McConachie for undertaking the weekly H&S checks and to John Thompson who is assisting the Parish Council in checking the zip-wire tension.

Planning

We have had another busy year in the parish with 17 approved applications of various types, slightly down from the 25 of last year.

An open village meeting was held to discuss plans for the current Village Hall site in the event that a new Community Centre is built on the Playing Field. Outline planning has now been obtained for demolition and redevelopment of the current Village Hall site. The intention of the outline application is to secure the necessary trip credits to keep open all options for the future development of the site. The current Village Hall will remain in use until such time as it can be replaced by the new Community Centre. In accordance with the conditions attached to the grant of the Village Hall land, any disposal and future use of the current Village Hall site will be subject to a village vote. The full application for the new Community Centre on the Playing Field will be submitted shortly.

There have been 2 Part Q permitted development applications in the last year. These refer to the redevelopment of redundant agricultural buildings into residential. Part Q relates to the section of the Town and Country Planning Act that regulate such developments. Part Q's don't usually apply to areas within AONB, however all areas are required to follow a flexible approach in presumption of development. Wealden have issued their guidance advice on Part Q permitted development, which the Parish Council are following when they review submissions.

Trees (Tree Protection Orders)

In January, TPO's were agreed on the leisure plots in Little Wilderness Lane which are presently being marketed and sold via auction. All the new registered owners are being advised. The selling agent has been requested to place this condition on the sale particulars for the remaining plots on their website but they have not responded.

Wealden's TPO officer visited Marlowe House to confirm that the garden clearance being carried out was in accordance with regulation, which has proved to be the case.

For information, it's an offence to cut down, top, lop, uproot, willfully damage or destroy a protected tree without permission. Protected trees are recorded in the land search when buying a property. If you are unsure, then contact Wealden with the longitude or latitude position of the tree (Google Earth can be used for this) and they will happily let you know.

Cllr. Michaelson-Yeates updated the meeting on this year's litter pick. They now have equipment and WDC collected the bags of rubbish. He thanked all residents who had assisted with the litter pick.

(c) Parish Planning Panel, Highways and Rights of Way and Strengthening Local Relationships meetings – Cllr. Damon Wellman

The parish planning panel is a quarterly meeting held with representatives from all Wealden parishes and the heads of Wealden planning. The meetings are an opportunity to discuss current planning issues, developments and decisions with the powers that be, but Julian has already covered these.

Highways has been covered by our speakers Dale and Mike.

We continue to report to the Rights of Way team any issues regarding our many public footpaths, bridle and byways. These include overgrown vegetation, uneven or dangerous surface problems, drainage and the unfortunate use of motorised vehicles damaging byways and paths. This has included organised motorcycle clubs from as far away as Eastbourne coming to race around the byways and was reported by local residents, something we would like to see stopped, but the common theme we are all aware of is a lack of resources making it tough to get things done, but we continue to try to be a priority in the long list that the ROW team have.

SLR is a quarterly meeting that I attend with the Chair and is predominantly filled with highways and associated maintenance issues around the parish, gully clearing, drainage, road signs, verges etc. This has been more productive in the last 6 months mainly due to getting direct conversations with the right people, (thanks to our ESCC Councillor Bob Standley) and bypassing the 'sometimes obstructive layers of communication' within various ESCC departments.

(d) New Community Centre, website and Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee – Cllr. Michael Lunn.

Uckfield Railway Parishes Committee

A collective group of Parish Councils and Town Councils with an interest in the Uckfield to London Line. Along with other stakeholders.

Core issues:

- Ongoing reliability issues of service;
- Broken down rolling stock and short formations;
- Turning around at Crowborough;
- Ticket office closures;
- Ticket machine breakdowns;
- Car parking;
- Electrification – issues with duelling the track;
- Change in timetabling from 20th May;
- BML2 remains on the table but its subject to private finance review.

New Community Centre Committee

The Parish Council sits on the Committee as observers.

The Committee has made significant progress over the last 12 months.

Numerous meetings have been held with the Committee, Parish Council and District Council officers to progress the project.

Late last year WDC officers advised the Committee and the Parish Council that due to the Ashdown Forest constraints, that it was advisable to apply for outline planning permission to the old village hall to retain options for future development (and thus value for the Parish).

An outline application for 3 dwellings was applied for to ensure excess trip credits associated with April Cottage were realised to enable the existing trip credits associated with the existing hall to be transferred to the new community centre. The concept of design is not relevant at this stage but the concept of redevelopment.

This was an accelerated process to realise that opportunity before they were lost to other developers. The impact of this decision by the Parish Council now gives options to the Parish residents as to possible disposal (without the risk of it being mothballed under a section 106 agreement) whilst maintaining some value in the site.

No decision has been made in the disposal or redevelopment of the old village hall and this will be subject to a public meeting and referendum when the time is right.

The plans for the community centre were subject to a public meeting and the committee and architect presented two concepts, one of which gained unanimous support alongside numerous comments for further improvement. All those comments have been incorporated into the final design and a planning application, alongside all the supporting documentation, is due to be formally submitted to Wealden District Council by the end of this month.

The design, scale and functionality of the new design has taken significant time to accommodate and although bigger than the current village hall, will meet all the necessary regulations for sports and safeguarding/disabled regulations. On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to thank everyone who has assisted to get us to this point.

Parish Council Website

During the middle of last year a discussion was held regarding the Parish Council's presence on the internet. The conclusion at that time was for the Parish Council to investigate options. The Parish Council Chair met with the current administrator alongside other groups who use the current village website and there appeared to be some interest in the development of a new community website.

At the same time a Parish Councillor offered to help but has since withdrawn that offer.

The Parish Council has purchased a new domain www.hadlowdown.org and this remains in the ownership of the Parish Council. At the same time the owner of www.hadlowdown.com has indicated that a new community website is being developed.

The Parish Council for reasons of security of documents believes the Council should have its own independent website.

The Parish Council have not made any final decisions but are hopeful that whatever the outcome that Parish Council pages will still be fully accessible by the community on the community website.

Members of the public commented on the railway service and parking at Buxted station.

(f) Burial Ground and Village Hall – Cllr. Sandra Richards

Burial Ground

This year there has been relatively a lot of activity in the burial ground compared to previous years – it is always odd to report on the burial ground as any 'activity' inevitably means that someone has sadly died. However, the additional revenue income from the burial ground has paid for a large number of unbudgeted projects in the village, in particular, work on the play area and clearing the playing field. Helen and I carried out an inspection on all of the graves and plots on the burial ground during the year and noted a number of problems with headstones which were 'wobbly'. The problem is that the site is very wet and this therefore can affect the headstones and they can become unsafe. As a result of this inspection, we have had to introduce a number of guidelines which include headstones not being able to be installed until one year after the burial (to allow the ground to settle) and also that no trees or bushes can be planted on graves as the roots can spread and cause damage.

Village Hall

We are all sitting in this lovely village hall and the PC are extremely grateful to the Committee who continue to run and look after this very useful village asset. In particular, we have to thank Janet Tourell who works tirelessly on behalf of the Committee and takes on all of the day-to-day problems with relentless pursuit – we will not mention sewerage smell issues. We understand that taking on the part time help of Beatrice Felicite to help with bookings/administration has helped reduce some of the workload from Janet and we can see that the website and booking procedures are now very professional.

I also have to mention the recent planning application for outline planning permission for building of houses on this site. Although the Parish Council paid the planning and the public notice fees, all of the costs for the other work regarding the application were covered by grants raised by Bob Lake and his HDCC committee for which we are extremely grateful. We know that a number of parishioners were very concerned about the application and raised objections (as well as many parishioners also offering their support for the application). As we said at the time and I would like to repeat again today – nothing will happen on this site without a village vote as this is a requirement given to the Parish Council when the land was gifted to us. We are not allowed to state what future Parish Councils will and will not do but we have tried to put in place a guideline that there will be a relatively long consultation period with the village if/when the time comes to look at selling the land. Future Parish Council's will also need to allow the voting process, will decide whether to propose to sell the land or not, will also offer options on what to do with the land e.g. build 3 2xbedroom houses or one larger single property – but this is for a future Parish Council to decide.

9. Chairman's Report

This statement seems to become similar each year as I have to thank many people who VOLUNTARILY give up their time to support the village. The job of being a Parish Councillor is not easy as the people who volunteer for the job are doing it for different reasons but fundamentally it is because they want to give back something to the village in which we all live. You will have all seen that in the Council Tax for this year, that we have had to increase our budget by 10% and whilst this percentage is high, we believe that the actual amount per household for the year is not too horrific as it ranges from an average increase of £7.00 per year for a Band D property to £13.00 per year for a Band G property. The main reason for this increase is that the Parish Council have had to take over responsibility for the Play Area on the Playing Field which had previously been handled by the playing field committee on a voluntary basis. However, with ageing play equipment and the additional time required for other activities on the playing field, the PFC could not continue to do this work and therefore the PC have had to budget for this – however, this shows the amount of money that the PFC, VHC and HDCC save the village with their voluntary contributions.

During the year, Helen Bonnick resigned as a Parish Councillor having been a Councillor for just over a year – her large contribution to the village was co-ordinating the activities for the Celebrate Festival which I believe you will all agree was a wonderful enterprise for the village bringing out people who had not necessarily attended previous village events. The legacy of Celebrate continues and further events that arose from this are going to be repeated this year – e.g. the Village Party on the playing field. I cannot list here all of the people that were involved with Celebrate but they know who they are and I would like to thank you all as well as Helen. I am delighted to welcome Jas Singh who has recently joined the PC as a new Councillor.

We have heard today from ESCC Highways and we are grateful for their continuing support but we would not be in the position that we are regarding Highways work without the relentless work carried out by Damon which includes taking life into his own hands on occasions as he measures and photographs potholes on the A272 which I am sure you will all agree would normally require danger money and I would like to thank him on everyone's behalf for the work that he does. Also I would like to thank Julian for the indepth analysis he does for us regarding planning applications – we are extremely lucky to have the planning briefs that he prepares for the PC which not only cuts down time at meetings but also means that we have all of the facts before us when making decisions – this takes an inordinate amount of work to prepare. I also speak on behalf of the village in thanking him and his team (Bob Lake especially) for their annual litter picking and sign cleaning initiatives.

We recently had to show the spirit of the village with the water shortage problem and I know that many people helped out each other but there was a lot of work carried out by both Michael and Iain on behalf of the PC to ensure that we did receive bottled water (even if some of it was a little late) and I hope that you will all complete the copies of the Emergency Plan questionnaire that has been circulated to ensure that we are better informed next time.

Finally and last but not least, I have to thank Helen our Clerk for her invaluable contribution to the Parish Council over the last year. It is not easy for Helen as she also works for Heathfield and Waldron Parish Council and when additional activities come for Hadlow Down which need dealing with Helen goes over and above what would normally be expected – it is quite normal for us to be receiving emails and information at 6 am in the morning as she is trying to fit everything in before going to her 'other' work. We all really appreciate her help and professional advice on how things should be done and I know that my job would be much more difficult without her help and support.

The Chair also advised that the PC are in the process of purchasing the telephone box and having considered having a book exchange in it and to move the defibrillator from outside the village hall into the box.

10. Questions from the floor

A member of the public thanked the Parish Council for all their hard work.

11. Closure of business

The meeting closed at 9pm

Draft Final Accounts 2017/18

INCOME	2016-17	2017-18
Balance brought forward	3,373.57	13,170.63
Precept	28,897.00	28,712.00
Arlington PC broadband & tel. use	6.66	
Burial ground	1,660.00	7,630.00
VAT reclaimed	4,584.42	280.41
ESCC contribution for fingerpost costs	70.00	
Rent for playing field	0.25	0.25
Compensation from Barclays		100.00
UK Power Networks playing field rent	3.61	3.55
Grants	18,775.00	
Transfer from reserves	1,200.00	1,150.00
Total	58,570.51	51,046.84

EXPENDITURE

Clerk's salary	13,595.54	13,279.26	
Clerk's training	328.64	369.31	
Administration	1,162.08		1,289.06
PC insurance	273.75	280.00	
Subscriptions	492.61	487.32	
Grants	3,066.00	3,532.48	
Hire of hall	400.00	400.00	
Audit	299.00	467.10	
Maintenance of Burial Ground	1,217.88	1,303.96	
Litter & dog bin emptying	1,440.00	1,440.00	
Parish Projects Plan			581.17
Fingerpost maintenance	200.00		
Chairmen's expenses	142.39	174.61	
Councillor's training	230.00	80.00	
Chair and Councillor's allowance			
Election expenses			
Website			10.98
Maintenance of play area & inspection	1,672.50	2,537.02	
Tree work at playing field & play area	210.00	1,430.00	
New equipment at playing field & play area			1,265.97
Legal fees	1,692.00	1,703.00	
Noticeboard maintenance	14.68		
Entrance to playing field			20.00
Loan payment	1,134.14	1,134.14	
Footpath 27c from grant	7,448.00	1,377.00	
Celebrate expenses from grant	550.00	8,896.20	
Telephone box			1.00
Defibrillators			172.35
Contingencies			195.98
Transfer into reserves	7,000.00	2,920.00	
VAT paid	2,830.67	2,788.89	
TOTAL	45,399.88	45,399.88	48,136.80
Balance at 31st March		13,170.63	2,910.04
Plus cheques drawn but not presented			10.98
Current account balance at 31st March		13,170.63	2,921.02
Earmarked reserves:			
Burial Ground Landscaping	1,200.00	1,200.00	
Property Maintenance	2,812.00	1,662.00	
New Village Hall Fund	5,944.00	5,944.00	
Road Safety Improvements/Highways	3,695.00	3,695.00	
Election Fund	432.00	432.00	
Finger post costs	1,280.00	1,700.00	
IT	754.00	754.00	
Community Plan	4,700.00	4,700.00	
Play equipment	4,692.00		4,692.00
Total earmarked reserves	25,509.00	24,779.00	
Unearmarked reserves	9,348.50	11,911.00	
Total reserves & Active Saver balance at 31st March	34,857.50	36,690.00	

Notes to accompany 2017-18 figures

The VAT reclaim figure was a lot lower as two VAT reclaims were submitted last year due to the Sussex Lund grant expenditure. Part of last year's VAT had therefore already been reclaimed and appeared as income in 2016-17 rather than in 2017-18. The compensation from Barclays related to a complaint that the Clerk submitted to them over their handling of a telephone query. The rent for the playing field is just a nominal charge made to the Playing Field Association. The UK Power Networks contribution is due to them having one of their poles on the land.

Administration includes the cost of a new Parish Council logo as the previous one wasn't of the required standard to be used for the Celebrate materials.

Grants were made to Sound Architect, Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance, Wealden CAB, Parish Magazine and the Playing Field Committee.

The external audit fees increased as we went into a higher bracket due to the grant income in 2016-17 which was the year being audited.

Maintenance of burial ground covered the normal grounds maintenance and some extra work on some of the plots.

The Parish Projects Plan expenditure covered pre-application advice from WDC and the planning application fee for the Village Hall site

In addition to the regular costs at the playing field, the Parish Council have also paid out for tree work to be undertaken, for a section of land to be cleared and for a weekly safety inspection to be undertaken. They have also taken on, from the Playing Field Committee, the maintenance of the play equipment and arranged for repairs to be made and for the slide to be replaced. They part-funded a new piece of play equipment and have purchased 2 new picnic tables which are in the process of being installed.

Legal fees incurred for the playing field in changing the lease with the Hadlow Down Playing Field Association. The expenditure at the entrance to the playing field related to the Land Registry charge to lodge the new Deed.

The income from the 2 grants received in 2016-17 has all been paid out.

Contingencies mainly related to litter picking equipment.

Of the £2920 that was transferred into reserves £420 went into fingerpost reserve to help pay for the work that is due to be undertaken this Spring and £2500 went into unearmarked reserves which should ideally be at approx. 50% of the precept figure.

Councillors continue to not claim the allowance to which they are entitled and haven't claimed for travel expenses despite attending various external meetings and training courses.

Notes on Precept

From 2014-2018 the Parish Council have managed to keep the precept as low as they possibly could, however due to extra demands on the budget, including increased grant requests from local organisations, the Parish Council taking on extra expense at the playing field (including weekly inspections and the maintenance of the equipment), a small contingency for work on the telephone box and a contingency for legal costs in case they are required with regard to the Village Hall, the Parish Council have unfortunately had to increase the precept by a larger amount this year. Although the percentage increase may seem high it only actually equates to an increase of 15p per week for a Band D household.